

**Village of Indian Head Park  
201 Acacia Drive  
Indian Head Park, IL 60525  
MEETING MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

***“Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2.06 (3) minutes of public meetings shall include, but need not be limited to a general description of all matters proposed, discussed, or decided and a record of votes taken.”***

**Thursday, December 11, 2014**

7:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER – MAYOR RICHARD S. ANDREWS**

The regular meeting of the Village of Indian Head Park Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at the Municipal Facility, 201 Acacia Drive, and was convened at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Richard Andrews.

Mayor Andrews stated for the record that Board meetings are being videotaped and audio recorded by the Village, and may be video or audio recorded by others also present. Village Clerk Joseph Consolo called the roll as follows:

**ROLL CALL: JOSEPH CONSOLO, VILLAGE CLERK**

**PRESENT (AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM):**

Mayor Rich Andrews  
Trustee Brian T. Bailey  
Trustee Tom Hinshaw  
Trustee Brenda O’Laughlin  
Trustee Norman L. Schnaufer  
Trustee Matt Walsh  
Trustee Amy Jo Wittenberg

**ALSO PRESENT:**

John Brooks, Chief of Police /Administrator  
Steve Busa, Treasurer  
Joseph V. Consolo, Village Clerk  
Richard Ramello, Counsel, Storino, Ramello & Durkin  
Edward Santen, Water/Public Works Superintendent  
David Brink, Finance

Dennis Schermerhorn, Chairman, Planning/Zoning Commission

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Andrews and the Board of Trustees led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: *"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all"*.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Rich Andrews**

Mayor Andrews began his report by noting that the S.E.A.S.P.A.R. organization has accepted the Town of Lemont's application to join their Special Recreation program. The Lemont Park District will share their wonderful facility with the organization, and, it is believed that with this additional membership, the contribution per municipality will be reduced in the near future.

Mayor Andrews also reported on the success of the Village's first Secretary of State Senior Mobile Event which was held on December 2, 2014. The Mayor thanked Mr. Ed Lloyd, Director of the Wilshire Association, for providing the facility and his assistance along with the help of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Mayor Andrews added that the Village is planning on hosting another Senior Mobile Event in September 2015.

Mayor Andrews explained that per the request of the Adventist LaGrange Memorial Hospital, part of the Mayor's Report would be a presentation provided by the C.E.O. Mr. Mike Gable, and Mr. Dan Waters of the Adventist LaGrange Memorial Hospital. The presentation pertained to the hospital's services, ratings, recognitions, expansions, and new affiliation.

## **CONSENT AGENDA (DISCUSSION AND A POSSIBLE VOTE MAY TAKE PLACE)**

- 1) *Reappointment of Village Treasurer Steve Busa for the term ending December 31, 2015.*
- 2) *Reappointment of Thomas Brescia as Prosecuting Attorney for the term ending December 31, 2015.*
- 3) *Approval of Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 2015.*

Mayor Andrews explained that the Consent Agenda included three items; the reappointments of Steve Busa to Village Treasurer for the term ending December 31, 2015; the reappointment of Thomas Brescia as Prosecuting Attorney for the term ending December 31, 2015, and the approval of meeting dates for the calendar year 2015. Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee Walsh, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion carried by voice vote (6-0-0).

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF TAX LEVY ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014/2015, PTELL RESOLUTION, AND SEASPAR LEVY RESOLUTION.**

- 1) **Approval of Tax Levy Ordinance for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2014 and ending April 30, 2015. (Ordinance #2014-22).**

Finance Director, Dave Brink, began the review of the Tax levy. He explained that this Tax Levy is for the current fiscal year beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 through April 30, 2015. Mr. Brink further explained that taxes are assessed in arrears, so this would be for next year's tax bills. The levy today is in the sum of \$1,181,297.00; of that, \$475,000.00 is for general purposes, and \$706,297.00 is for Special purposes. Trustee Schnaufer moved, seconded by Trustee O'Laughlin, to approve Tax Levy **Ordinance #2014-22** as presented by Mr. Dave Brink. Carried by roll call vote (6-0-0).

*Ayes: Trustees: Bailey, Hinshaw, O'Laughlin, Schnaufer, Walsh, Wittenberg*

*Nays: None*

*Absent: None*

**2) Approval of Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) Resolution (Resolution # R12-14-1)**

Mr. Dave Brink explained that the Village passes a Resolution for the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law along with the Tax Levy Ordinance, to estimate a higher levy amount, since we do not know what the county will set the Equalized Assessed Value at for the year. If we did not levy for a higher amount, and the assessments were higher than our levy we would not be able to collect the extra dollars. This resolution instructs the County as to what should be reduced if the taxes happen to be lower than the levy amount. Mayor Andrews invited the Board of Trustees to ask questions in regard to the Resolution. No questions were asked, and Trustee Schnaufer moved, seconded by Trustee O'Laughlin, to approve The Property Tax Limitation Law, **Resolution #R12-14-1** as presented by Mr. Brink. Carried by roll call vote (6-0-0).

*Ayes: Trustees: Bailey, Hinshaw, O'Laughlin, Schnaufer, Walsh, Wittenberg.*

*Nays: None*

*Absent: None*

**3) Resolution to approve S.E.A.S.P.A.R. Levy amount for the Village of Indian Head Park for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. (Resolution #R12-14-2).**

Mayor Andrews noted that the S.E.A.S.P.A.R Levy amount for the Village of Indian Head Park fiscal year 2015/2016 is \$23,858.00 which is reduced from last year's amount of \$24,192.00. Trustee Schnaufer moved, seconded by Trustee O'Laughlin, to approve the S.E.A.S.P.A.R Levy **Resolution #R12-14-2** as presented by Mayor Andrews. Carried by roll call vote (6-0-0).

*Ayes: Trustees: Bailey, Hinshaw, O'Laughlin, Schnaufer, Walsh, Wittenberg.*

*Nays: None*

*Absent: None*

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING/ZONING  
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DENNIS SCHERMERHORN (DISCUSSION AND A VOTE  
WILL TAKE PLACE)**

- 1. Report and recommendation from the Planning/Zoning Commission regarding Petition #183 – a request for a safety gate at 6506 Wolf Road.**
- 2. Recommendation to direct Village Counsel to prepare an Ordinance granting a safety gate at 6506 Wolf Road.**

Mayor Andrews explained that the Planning and Zoning Chairman Dennis Schermerhorn, would be giving a report from the Planning and Zoning Commission in regard to Petition #183, and that comments and questions from the audience and Board of Trustees would follow. Chairman Schermerhorn read the Commission's Report, dated December 11, 2014 as follows;

The December 2, 2014 meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission was presented with the continuation of Zoning Petition #183 requesting a front yard variance to construct a security gate at 6506 Wolf Road.

The petition was presented by Kathleen Weger, the property owner and Meghan Knox, the renter of the property, with an option to buy.

The gate had previously been installed onto existing stone pillars. This application asked for a gate variance to allow the installation to stand. The original petition included the stone pillars as a structural front yard encroachment until we were informed that the pillars were in place for many years and prior to Ms. Weger's ownership. A neighbor to the south objected to the gate as well as several other non-zoning issues, and was represented in the last meeting by Rita Farrell, their attorney. A detailed discussion ensued describing the project, the property enhancements and the reasons for the necessity of a security gate. Those reasons for the gate centered on the traffic volume along Wolf Road and that several vehicles in the recent past had used their driveway to turn around, to stop and make phone calls and otherwise cause Ms. Knox to be concerned for her safety.

Chief concerns opposing the installation of the gate were the potential for precedent allowing a proliferation of such gates and running counter to our Village "no fence" policy, and whether a gate would actually offer any security against a determined intruder.

After a review of the findings of fact and discussion of the variance proposal the Commission found that Section 17.24.060E (c) of the Ordinance that the installation would alter the essential character of the locality. The vote to send the variance request to the Village Board with the Commission's recommendation for non-approval was 5 in favor, 0 against, 2 absent.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Schermerhorn

Chairman  
Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mayor Andrews noted that the Board of Trustees was given a copy of the site plat of survey. A discussion ensued between Mayor Andrews and Chairman Schermerhorn in regard to the safety gate. The Board of Trustees did not have any questions. Trustee Bailey moved, seconded by Trustee Hinshaw, to receive the Report recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission in regard to Petition #183 for a safety gate at 6506 Wolf Road, as presented by Chairman Schermerhorn. Motion carried by voice (6-0-0).

Mayor Andrews stated that since the Village Board voted to receive the Report and recommendation from The Planning and Zoning Commission not to approve a safety gate at 6506 Wolf Road and the Mayor did not direct Counsel to prepare an Ordinance for a safety gate at 6506 Wolf Road.

#### **QUESTIONS AND OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGARDING THE SAFETY GATE**

Mr. Tim Foley attorney representing Ms. Meghan Knox, one of the Petitioners, explained that he was just retained two days prior, and submitted a Freedom of Information Request, because unfortunately Ms. Knox had misplaced her copy of the Petition. Mr. Foley requested a continuance for Petition #183, and to remand this Petition back to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Ms. Rita Farrell, attorney for Sherman and Margaret Chao, of 6510 Wolf Road stated her clients opposed the possible approval of the gate at 6506 Wolf Road. Ms. Farrell passed out a copy of the letter she presented at the Planning and Zoning Public Hearing on December 2, 2014, stating reasons why the Petition #183 should not be granted. Mr. Glen Mann of 6458 Blackhawk Trail, also declared that he opposed the granting of variance for Petition #183.

Trustee Walsh stated that he does not believe that this should be remanded back to the Planning and Zoning Board, but does feel that this is an important issue that may come up again, and would motion for a one time continuance to allow Counsel to prepare and present their case at the next Village Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Wittenberg, to grant a continuance for Petition #183 till the January 8<sup>th</sup>. Board meeting, as requested by Mr. Tim Foley, attorney for the Petitioners. Motion passed by roll call vote: (5-1-0)

*Ayes: Trustees; Bailey, O'Laughlin, Schnaufer, Walsh, Wittenberg*

*Nay: Trustee Hinshaw*

*Absent:None*

#### **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT**

Treasurer Steve Busa presented the Financial Report for the month ending November 30, 2014. The revenues were \$ 89,818.66, expenditures \$ 783,093.83, and at the end of November the total



Village funds were \$1,586,990.27. Treasurer Busa pointed out that half of the expenditures in November included payments made pertaining to the Road Project and a payment on the 2009 Bond. There being no questions in regard to the Financial Report, Trustee Schnauffer moved, seconded by Trustee O'Laughlin, to approve the Financial Report for the month ending November 30, 2014. Motion carried by voice vote (6-0-0).

#### **APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Mayor Andrews asked if there were any corrections, or additions to the minutes of the Village Town Hall Meeting of October 30, 2014. As there were none, Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee Hinshaw to approve the October 30, 2014 Village Board Town Hall Meeting Minutes. Motion carried by a voice vote (6-0-0).

Mayor Andrews asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Village Board of Trustees Meeting for November 13, 2014. As there were none, Trustee Bailey moved, Seconded by Trustee Wittenberg, to approve the November 13, 2014 Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting minutes. Motion carried by a voice vote (6-0-0).

#### **AGENDA ITEMS (DISCUSSIONS AND A POSSIBLE VOTE MAY TAKE PLACE)**

##### **1) Water Meter Replacement- Village Administrator John Brooks.**

Administrator Brooks stated that he along with Superintendent Ed Santen, and Mr. Bill Mc Conoughy from the Public Works Department met with the representatives of the Neptune Technology Group which has similar technology as the other two firms the group has met with. They discussed a Water meter replacement system for the Village, due to its aging, outdated, less accurate meter system. Administrator Brooks added that he, Superintendent Santen, Mr. Mc Conaughy and Trustee Bailey will meet with all three companies. Trustee Bailey can hear their presentations, then the next step would be to bring the information to the Village Board of Trustees, and the Board can decide to move forward with the replacement project, or not. Administrator Brooks noted that he received notice from the City of Countryside that there would be two water increases in the near future, one as of January 1, 2015 of .54 cents per 1,000 gallons; the increase in May is yet to be determined. A discussion ensued in regard to the possibility of a Water Replacement Project. Trustee Hinshaw, requested that the Board create a List of Water Infrastructure Priorities, and Trustee Wittenberg suggested an Infrastructure Budget in order to accrue money to cover infrastructure costs, to be included for discussion on the January Agenda. Mayor Andrews stated that he would include the Infrastructure discussion on the Agenda.

##### **2) Approval to obtain appraisal for the Heritage Center:**

Mayor Andrews stated that per discussion at the November 13, 2014 meeting, Administrator Brooks retrieved three estimates, by State certified appraisers, to conduct an appraisal of the Heritage Center property. The estimate costs were \$1,200, \$1,500, and \$3,000 dollars. The appraisals include both options, if sold as one lot, or two lots; these appraisals would not include a survey. A discussion ensued in regard to pursuing an appraisal as a first step into determining

whether or not to sell the Heritage Center. Trustee Schnaufer moved, seconded by Trustee Bailey, to approve the obtaining of an appraisal not costing more than \$1,500 for the Heritage Center property. Mayor Andrews noted that they will be able to vote by voice vote, since the action is an operational Administrative matter; Motion denied by roll call vote (2-4-0).

*Ayes: Bailey, Schnaufer*

*Nays: Hinshaw, O'Laughlin, Walsh, Wittenberg*

*Absent: None*

The Board did agree upon Administrator Brooks obtaining a survey, and an informal appraisal.

### **QUESTIONS AND OR COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

Chairman Schermerhorn gave suggestions to the Village Board, in regard to retrieving the survey right of ways indicated.

Mrs. Joan Metz of 6403 Arrowhead Court commented on the Heritage Center referendum ballot, and thought that it should have had another option besides sell or not. Mrs. Metz also had a complaint in regard to the excessive amount of salt used on November 25, 2014 in her neighborhood and assumed it was throughout the Village. Mrs. Metz had contacted the Village to request the Village guidelines in regard to the salting of streets, and had not received the information she requested as of yet. Trustee Bailey replied that he would have information for her within a couple days.

Mayor Andrews explained the importance he and Superintendent Santen place on the safety of the Village streets and commented on the great job the Public Works Department does on the Village streets. Mayor Andrews and Superintendent Santen discussed dialing down, the salt spreader, and to be cautious with the amount of salt used, and it was determined that the over salting of Mrs. Metz's area was an isolated event.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further discussion, Trustee Walsh moved, seconded by Trustee O'Laughlin, to adjourn the Village Board regular meeting at 8:49 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote (6-0-0).

### **Submitted by,**

Joseph Consolo, Village Clerk,

Mary Crowley, Recording Secretary